



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

**DATE:** August 28, 2009

**TO:** Superintendents  
Area Education Agency Administrators  
Area Education Agency English Language Learners Consultants

**FROM:** Kevin Fangman, Administrator  
Division of PK-12 Education

**SUBJECT:** Iowa English Language Development Assessment (I-ELDA) Exam Costs

*The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that Title III funds can no longer be used to pay for the Iowa English Language Development Assessment (I-ELDA) and that districts and AEAs will no longer be able to use Title III funds for the purchase of placement or screener exams for incoming students who may need Title III services. The United States Department of Education (USDE) issued a document for Chief State School Officers and Title III directors regarding "supplement vs. supplant" requirements in No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The USDE, through the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), issued a notice of final interpretation regarding the NCLB Act of 2001.*

Both documents address the issue that under the NCLB law and the final interpretation, Title I has a responsibility to test non-English speaking students. Therefore, the use of Title III funds for paying for the I-ELDA and the placement exams would violate the "supplement not supplant" requirement of the NCLB law. *With respect to past Title III practices in Iowa, Title III funds can no longer be used to pay for the I-ELDA.*

**The Iowa Department of Education (IDE) recognizes that this may result in a hardship for districts with large or growing English Language Learners populations. The IDE has reallocated funds to cover the I-ELDA exam costs.** The IDE's ability to pay for these exams will be evaluated on a yearly basis. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will not receive the funds for the exam costs directly. LEAs will continue to order exams through Northwest Area Education Agency (AEA), and in turn, the Northwest AEA will bill the IDE for exam costs.

In regards to screening students, local districts may use the LAS and IPT exams to screen and place students, **however, districts must now incur these costs.** The IDE is developing a low cost screener to help reduce the cost of determining an incoming student's English language abilities and need for service.

If you have any questions or concerns about this change in policy, please contact John Scott, Title III Consultant, at (515) 281-3805 or [John.Scott@iowa.gov](mailto:John.Scott@iowa.gov).

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